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09/886,538	06/19/2001	Adi Harari	45485/DMC/I275	6454

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EXAMINER	
DUONG, THOMAS	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2145	
MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
12/11/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/886,538	HARARI, ADI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	THOMAS DUONG	2145	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *21 September 2007*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *3-7, 9-10, and 12-16* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *3-7, 9-10, and 12-16* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *19 June 2001* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This office action is in response to the Applicants' After Non-Final Amendment filed on September 21, 2007. Applicant amended *claims 3-5, 10, and 15* and canceled *claim 8*. *Claims 3-7, 9-10, and 12-16* are presented for further consideration and examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. *Claims 3-7, 9-10, 12, and 15-16* are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Celik (US006374259B1), in view of Delany et al. (US006658454B1), and further in view of Chaganti et al. (US006845448B1).

4. With regard to *claim 3*, Celik discloses,

- *receiving, over the Internet, contact information regarding a user;* (Celik, col.1, lines 50-58; col.2, lines 8-26; col.4, lines 8-22; col.4, line 64 – col.5, line 15; col.8, line 53 – col.9, line 28; col.10, lines 11-31)

  Celik teaches of *"an information management method [that] includes step of … storing information coupled to a remote computer"* (Celik, col.1, lines 51-55) by allowing *"a user (hereinafter User 1) of the first personal computer 12 to [access]*

the remote computer over the internet to input business contact information of User 1 or other information that User 1 wishes to store in the database 18" (Celik, col.4, lines 12-16).

- *storing in a computer accessible memory the contact information regarding the user;* (Celik, col.1, lines 50-58; col.2, lines 8-26; col.4, lines 8-22; col.4, line 64 – col.5, line 15; col.8, line 53 – col.9, line 28; col.10, lines 11-31)
  Celik teaches of *"an information management method [that] includes step of … storing information coupled to a remote computer"* (Celik, col.1, lines 51-55) by allowing *"a user (hereinafter User 1) of the first personal computer 12 to [access] the remote computer over the internet to input business contact information of User 1 or other information that User 1 wishes to store in the database 18"* (Celik, col.4, lines 12-16).
- *receiving, over the Internet, information regarding contacts of the user;* (Celik, col.1, lines 50-58; col.2, lines 8-26; col.4, lines 8-22; col.4, line 64 – col.5, line 15; col.8, line 53 – col.9, line 28; col.10, lines 11-31)
  Celik teaches of *"an information management method [that] includes step of … storing information coupled to a remote computer"* (Celik, col.1, lines 51-55) by allowing *"a user (hereinafter User 1) of the first personal computer 12 to [access] the remote computer over the internet to input business contact information of User 1 or other information that User 1 wishes to store in the database 18"* (Celik, col.4, lines 12-16). Hence, Celik implies of a user inputting business contact information or other information such as contact information of business acquaintances, family members, friends, etc. into the database on the remote computer.

However, Celik does not explicitly disclose,

- *forming a distribution list of the contacts of the user using the information regarding contacts the user; and*

Delany teaches,

- *forming a distribution list of the contacts of the user using the information regarding contacts the user; and* (Delany, col.4, line 22 – col.5, line 45) Delany teaches of *"a distribution or 'mailing list' [that] is employed to facilitate the process of sending an e-mail message to a group of people"* (Delany, col.4, lines 27-28) when sending e-mail; wherein the *"mailing list can be used in the recipient field for an e-mal message, in lieu of listing individual members, so that a message sent to this distribution list goes to all recipients listed"* (Delany, col.4, lines 41-44).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Delany with the teachings of Celik to provide an information management method wherein *"instead of addressing an e-mail message to individual members of a recurring group, a user can instead simply define a mailing list to comprise those members"* (Delany, col.4, lines 29-31) wherein *"a distribution or 'mailing list' is employed to facilitate the process of sending an e-mail message to a group of people"* (Delany, col.2, line 66 – col.3, line 1).

However, Celik and Delany do not explicitly disclose,

- *providing the contact information regarding the user to at least some of the contacts of the user on the distribution list automatically in response to receiving updated contact information of the user, wherein the user is a registered user*

and the contract information is provided to contacts of the user on the distribution list who are not registered users.

Chaganti teaches,

- *providing the contact information regarding the user to at least some of the contacts of the user on the distribution list automatically in response to receiving updated contact information of the user, wherein the user is a registered user and the contract information is provided to contacts of the user on the distribution list who are not registered users.* (Chaganti, col.1, line 7 – col.16, line 19) Chaganti discloses, *"The user account management module additionally allows the user 103 to change or to update the user's password, address, telephone number or any other information. The user can change or update his personal information any time after the account is established. Preferably, the user can also provide a list of entities that should be notified for each change. In one embodiment, each information object that is changed or updated is notified to a list of authorized recipients automatically. In another embodiment, a change or an update is provided to a requester 105 when a request is made"* (Chaganti, col.8, lines 57-67). Chaganti discloses, *"When the user 103 makes the changes, he makes these by accessing the server computer 100 web site and entering his information as described above. The user 103 elects or designates any requesters or recipients of change notifications. The server computer 100 automatically retrieves the information objects that changed and notifies the designated requesters or recipients via secure E-mail, or other methods indicated above (step 226)"* (Chaganti, col.3, lines 1-17). Hence, Chaganti teaches of the server computer 100 automatically retrieving (i.e., Applicants' receiving) the

information objects that changed (i.e., Applicants' updated contact information of the user) and notifying (i.e., Applicants' providing) the changed or updated information objects (i.e., Applicants' contact information regarding the user) to any requesters (e.g., registered contact) or recipients (e.g., non-registered contact) (i.e., Applicants' at least some of the contacts of the user) from a list of entities (i.e., Applicants' distribution list), which the user elected or designated, that should be notified of each change via secure E-mail or other methods.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Chaganti with the teachings of Celik and Delany to provide an information management method wherein *"instead of addressing an e-mail message to individual members of a recurring group, a user can instead simply define a mailing list to comprise those members"* (Delany, col.4, lines 29-31) wherein *"a distribution or 'mailing list' is employed to facilitate the process of sending an e-mail message to a group of people"* (Delany, col.2, line 66 – col.3, line 1). In addition, Chaganti discloses, *"Additionally, there is no method whereby the user can update or make changes to the personal information stored at the single location--whether it is a single server computer or a collection of server computers comprising a distributed system--and cause the changes to be distributed to all persons or entities that need to be notified. Accordingly, there is a need for such a system and method"* (Chaganti, col.1, lines 51-57).

5. With regard to *claims 4-5 and 16*, Celik, Delany, and Chaganti disclose,

- *wherein providing the contact information to at least some of the contacts of the user on the distribution list comprises sending an e-mail to at least some of the*

contacts of the user on the distribution list who are not registered users. (Celik, col.1, lines 50-58; col.2, lines 8-26; col.4, lines 8-22; col.4, line 64 – col.5, line 15; col.8, line 53 – col.9, line 28; col.10, lines 11-31; Delany, col.4, line 22 – col.5, line 45; Chaganti, col.1, line 7 – col.16, line 19)

- *wherein the at least some of the contacts of the user on the distribution list are those contacts of the user on the distribution list having an e-mail address who are not registered users.* (Celik, col.1, lines 50-58; col.2, lines 8-26; col.4, lines 8-22; col.4, line 64 – col.5, line 15; col.8, line 53 – col.9, line 28; col.10, lines 11-31; Delany, col.4, line 22 – col.5, line 45; Chaganti, col.1, line 7 – col.16, line 19)

6. With regard to *claims 6-7*, Celik, Delany, and Chaganti disclose,

- *wherein receiving contact information regarding the user comprises receiving by a server contact information regarding the user from a client.* (Celik, col.1, lines 50-58; col.2, lines 8-26; col.4, lines 8-22; col.4, line 64 – col.5, line 15; col.8, line 53 – col.9, line 28; col.10, lines 11-31; Delany, col.4, line 22 – col.5, line 45; Chaganti, col.1, line 7 – col.16, line 19)
- *wherein the server sends the e-mails to at least some the contacts of the user the distribution list.* (Celik, col.1, lines 50-58; col.2, lines 8-26; col.4, lines 8-22; col.4, line 64 – col.5, line 15; col.8, line 53 – col.9, line 28; col.10, lines 11-31; Delany, col.4, line 22 – col.5, line 45; Chaganti, col.1, line 7 – col.16, line 19)

7. With regard to *claims 9-10 and 12*, Celik, Delany, and Chaganti disclose,

- *wherein the contact information regarding the user comprises updated contact information regarding the user.* (Celik, col.1, lines 50-58; col.2, lines 8-26; col.4,

lines 8-22; col.4, line 64 – col.5, line 15; col.8, line 53 – col.9, line 28; col.10, lines 11-31; Delany, col.4, line 22 – col.5, line 45; Chaganti, col.1, line 7 – col.16, line 19)

- *wherein providing the contact information to at least some of the contacts of the user on the distribution list automatically in response to receiving updated contact information of the user comprises sending an e-mail to at least some of the contacts of the user on the distribution list who are not registered users.* (Celik, col.1, lines 50-58; col.2, lines 8-26; col.4, lines 8-22; col.4, line 64 – col.5, line 15; col.8, line 53 – col.9, line 28; col.10, lines 11-31; Delany, col.4, line 22 – col.5, line 45; Chaganti, col.1, line 7 – col.16, line 19)
- *further comprising data stamping the contact information of the user.* (Celik, col.1, lines 50-58; col.2, lines 8-26; col.4, lines 8-22; col.4, line 64 – col.5, line 15; col.8, line 53 – col.9, line 28; col.10, lines 11-31; Delany, col.4, line 22 – col.5, line 45; Chaganti, col.1, line 7 – col.16, line 19)

8. With regard to *claim 15*, Celik discloses,

- *a server receiving contact information and a contact list for each of a plurality of users;* (Celik, col.1, lines 50-58; col.2, lines 8-26; col.4, lines 8-22; col.4, line 64 – col.5, line 15; col.8, line 53 – col.9, line 28; col.10, lines 11-31)
  Celik teaches of *"an information management method [that] includes step of … storing information coupled to a remote computer"* (Celik, col.1, lines 51-55) by allowing *"a user (hereinafter User 1) of the first personal computer 12 to [access] the remote computer over the internet to input business contact information of User 1 or other information that User 1 wishes to store in the database 18"* (Celik,

col.4, lines 12-16). Hence, Celik teaches of a server containing a database used to store the unique user identification numbers.

- *a mass storage device coupled to the server, the mass storage device storing the contact information and the contact list for each of the plurality of users;* (Celik, col.1, lines 50-58; col.2, lines 8-26; col.4, lines 8-22; col.4, line 64 – col.5, line 15; col.8, line 53 – col.9, line 28; col.10, lines 11-31)

  Celik teaches of *"an information management method [that] includes step of … storing information coupled to a remote computer"* (Celik, col.1, lines 51-55) by allowing *"a user (hereinafter User 1) of the first personal computer 12 to [access] the remote computer over the internet to input business contact information of User 1 or other information that User 1 wishes to store in the database 18"* (Celik, col.4, lines 12-16). Hence, Celik teaches of a server containing a database used to store the unique user identification numbers.

- *wherein the server is configured to:*
  - *assign an identifier to the contact information of each of the plurality of users;* (Celik, col.1, lines 50-58; col.2, lines 8-26; col.4, lines 8-22; col.4, line 64 – col.5, line 15; col.8, line 53 – col.9, line 28; col.10, lines 11-31)

    Celik teaches of *"the information management method includes steps of assigning a first user a unique user identification number, storing information related to the first user in a remote database operatively coupled to a remote computer"* (Celik, col.1, lines 51-55). In addition, according to Celik, *"the remote database containing contact information for each of a plurality of users of the information management system, wherein each of the users id*

assigned a unique user identification number" (Celik, col.2, lines 11-15). Hence, Celik teaches of assigning each user a unique identification number.

- *date stamp the contact information of each of the plurality of users;* (Celik, col.1, lines 50-58; col.2, lines 8-26; col.4, lines 8-22; col.4, line 64 – col.5, line 15; col.8, line 53 – col.9, line 28; col.10, lines 11-31)

  Celik discloses, *"both the synchronizer and the database maintain an update log indicating the last time that contact information for a user has been updated. The update log in the database indicates the last time that the user edited his contact information in the database, and the update log in the synchronizer indicates the last time that the contact information in the PIM for the user has been updated"* (Celik, col.10, lines 11-18). Hence, Celik teaches of indicating the last time that contact information for a user has been updated or synchronized through the use of date stamping.

- *determine whether contact information of a specific user is synchronized with contact list of another specific user;* (Celik, col.1, lines 50-58; col.2, lines 8-26; col.4, lines 8-22; col.4, line 64 – col.5, line 15; col.8, line 53 – col.9, line 28; col.10, lines 11-31)

  Celik discloses, *"both the synchronizer and the database maintain an update log indicating the last time that contact information for a user has been updated. The update log in the database indicates the last time that the user edited his contact information in the database, and the update log in the synchronizer indicates the last time that the contact information in the PIM for the user has been updated"* (Celik, col.10, lines 11-18). Hence, Celik teaches

of indicating the last time that contact information for a user has been updated or synchronized through the use of date stamping.

However, Celik does not explicitly disclose,

- *a server receiving contact information and contact list information for each of a plurality of users;*

Delany teaches,

- *a server receiving contact information and contact list information for each of a plurality of users;* (Delany, col.4, line 22 – col.5, line 45)

  Delany teaches of *"a distribution or 'mailing list' [that] is employed to facilitate the process of sending an e-mail message to a group of people"* (Delany, col.4, lines 27-28) when sending e-mail; wherein the *"mailing list can be used in the recipient field for an e-mal message, in lieu of listing individual members, so that a message sent to this distribution list goes to all recipients listed"* (Delany, col.4, lines 41-44).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Delany with the teachings of Celik to provide an information management method wherein *"instead of addressing an e-mail message to individual members of a recurring group, a user can instead simply define a mailing list to comprise those members"* (Delany, col.4, lines 29-31) wherein *"a distribution or 'mailing list' is employed to facilitate the process of sending an e-mail message to a group of people"* (Delany, col.2, line 66 – col.3, line 1).

However, Celik and Delany do not explicitly disclose,

- *provide contact information of a specific user to at least some of the users indicated in contact list for the specific user automatically when the contact information for the specific user changes.*

Chaganti teaches,

- *provide contact information of a specific user to at least some of the users, who are not registered, indicated in contact list for the specific user automatically when the contact information for the specific user changes.* (Chaganti, col.1, line 7 – col.16, line 19)

  Chaganti discloses, *"The user account management module additionally allows the user 103 to change or to update the user's password, address, telephone number or any other information. The user can change or update his personal information any time after the account is established. Preferably, the user can also provide a list of entities that should be notified for each change. In one embodiment, each information object that is changed or updated is notified to a list of authorized recipients automatically. In another embodiment, a change or an update is provided to a requester 105 when a request is made"* (Chaganti, col.8, lines 57-67). Chaganti discloses, *"When the user 103 makes the changes, he makes these by accessing the server computer 100 web site and entering his information as described above. The user 103 elects or designates any requesters or recipients of change notifications. The server computer 100 automatically retrieves the information objects that changed and notifies the designated requesters or recipients via secure E-mail, or other methods indicated above (step 226)"* (Chaganti, col.3, lines 1-17). Hence, Chaganti teaches of the server computer 100

automatically retrieving (i.e., Applicants' receiving) the information objects that changed (i.e., Applicants' updated contact information of the user) and notifying (i.e., Applicants' providing) the changed or updated information objects (i.e., Applicants' contact information regarding the user) to any requesters (e.g., registered contact) or recipients (e.g., non-registered contact) (i.e., Applicants' at least some of the contacts of the user) from a list of entities (i.e., Applicants' distribution list), which the user elected or designated, that should be notified of each change via secure E-mail or other methods.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Chaganti with the teachings of Celik and Delany to provide an information management method wherein *"instead of addressing an e-mail message to individual members of a recurring group, a user can instead simply define a mailing list to comprise those members"* (Delany, col.4, lines 29-31) wherein *"a distribution or 'mailing list' is employed to facilitate the process of sending an e-mail message to a group of people"* (Delany, col.2, line 66 – col.3, line 1). In addition, Chaganti discloses, *"Additionally, there is no method whereby the user can update or make changes to the personal information stored at the single location--whether it is a single server computer or a collection of server computers comprising a distributed system--and cause the changes to be distributed to all persons or entities that need to be notified. Accordingly, there is a need for such a system and method"* (Chaganti, col.1, lines 51-57).

9. *Claims 13-14* are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Celik (US006374259B1), in view of Delany et al. (US006658454B1), in view of Chaganti et al. (US006845448B1), and further in view of Fisher et al. (US006047264A).

10. With regard to *claims 13-14*, Celik, Delany, and Chaganti disclose,

See *claim 3* rejection as detailed above.

However, Celik, Delany, and Chaganti do not explicitly disclose,

- *further comprising maintaining at least one flag indicating whether a contact of the user should receive automatic updates of contact information of the user.*
- *further comprising maintaining at least one flag indicating whether the user should receive automatic updates of contact information of a contact of the user.*

Fisher teaches,

- *further comprising maintaining at least one flag indicating whether a contact of the user should receive automatic updates of contact information of the user.* (Fisher, col.1, line 56 – col.2, line 40; col.3, line 59 – col.4, line 27)

  Fisher teaches of *a "status receiver 14 [that] signals electronic mail messenger 15, via an 'Updated Status' flag in the appropriate database records, that a new update message should be sent"* (Fisher, col.4, lines 4-8). Hence, Fisher teaches the use of a flag to indicate that a particular record should receive automatic updates upon their availability.
- *further comprising maintaining at least one flag indicating whether the user should receive automatic updates of contact information of a contact of the user.* (Fisher, col.1, line 56 – col.2, line 40; col.3, line 59 – col.4, line 27)

Fisher teaches of *a "status receiver 14 [that] signals electronic mail messenger 15, via an 'Updated Status' flag in the appropriate database records, that a new update message should be sent"* (Fisher, col.4, lines 4-8). Hence, Fisher teaches the use of a flag to indicate that a particular record should receive automatic updates upon their availability.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Fisher with the teachings of Celik, Delany, and Chaganti to provide an information management method wherein *"instead of addressing an e-mail message to individual members of a recurring group, a user can instead simply define a mailing list to comprise those members"* (Delany, col.4, lines 29-31) wherein *"a distribution or 'mailing list' is employed to facilitate the process of sending an e-mail message to a group of people"* (Delany, col.2, line 66 – col.3, line 1).

Response to Arguments

11. Applicant's arguments with respect to *claims 3 and 15* have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

12. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a). A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas Duong whose telephone number is 571/272-3911. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30AM - 4:00PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason D. Cardone can be reached on 571/272-3933. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 571/273-8300 for regular communications and 571/273-8300 for After Final communications.

Thomas Duong (AU2145)

December 12, 2007

/Jason D Cardone/
Supervisory Patent Examiner,
Art Unit 2145